

Program B: Support Services

Program Authorization: Louisiana Revised Statutes 45:1177 (a,b, & d); 45:1180 and 45:1181

Program Description

Ensure that rates for services passes on to Louisiana citizens by regulated carriers are based on reasonable, allowable, recoverable operating costs and prudent investments incurred by jurisdictional companies in providing the services. Provide technical support and assistance to the citizens regarding regulation of utility and common carrier companies. Review, analyze and investigate rates and charges filed before the Commission with respect to prudence and adequacy to those rates in order to provide reliable and affordable service to customers while allowing the regulated utility to maintain a reasonable and fair rate of return.

Provide all parties to adjudicatory hearing a fair and impartial hearing. Ensure that jurisdictional company rates are fair and reasonable to the consumer and at the same time provide a fair rate of return to the company. Provide the Commission with accurate reporting of regulated utility and common carrier companies' financial condition; level of earnings; rate of return, adherence to federal, state, local and PSC laws, regulations and guidelines to assist in decision-making responsibilities. Provide unbiased recommendations, economic and statistical analysis of the activities pertaining to the performance, conduct and the business of utilities in accordance with the goals, objectives and responsibilities of the Commission.

Administrative Hearings Division: Assist the Commission in making an examination of rates and services charged by public utilities and common carriers or Louisiana consumers. Administrative Law Judges manage the process of and conduct hearings in all matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission for which adjudicatory or evidentiary hearing is requested.

Office of General Counsel: General Counsel serves as the legal representative of the Commission at all levels of the judicial system including the 19th judicial court and other state and federal regulatory bodies. In some instances the General Counsel may serve as a hearing examiner. Responsible for adequate and orderly processing of all formal proceedings that are acted upon by the Commission, transcription of public hearings for interested parties and the courts; and filing orders and decisions arising from these proceedings and maintaining accurate filings.

Auditing Division: Primary responsibility is to provide the Commission with accurate and current information with respect to the financial condition and the results of operations of regulated utilities.

Economics Division: Reviews and analyzes rates of return and rate increase proposals by regulated utilities and makes recommendations to the Commission. Provides analytic capabilities to aid the Commission in actively planning and developing policies in regard to the regulation and oversight of regulated utilities.

Utilities Division: Responsible for the maintenance of all rates and conditions of service records filed by regulated utilities. Works closely with the Audit Division to examine and audit costs of electric fuel adjustments and natural gas purchases by natural gas companies. Assist with investigation of complaints that cannot be resolved at the district office level.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACT 12 2001-2002	EXISTING 2001-2002	CONTINUATION 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	163,974	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	1,396,081	1,595,496	1,759,470	1,670,609	1,638,181	(121,289)
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$1,396,081	\$1,759,470	\$1,759,470	\$1,670,609	\$1,638,181	(121,289)
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$902,316	\$1,121,173	\$1,121,173	\$1,022,500	\$981,600	(139,573)
Other Compensation	18,519	12,617	12,617	12,617	12,617	0
Related Benefits	159,439	227,061	227,061	231,110	225,200	(1,861)
Total Operating Expenses	227,082	248,496	248,421	254,384	237,671	(10,750)
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Charges	0	104,823	104,898	104,898	115,648	10,750
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	88,725	45,300	45,300	45,100	65,445	20,145
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$1,396,081	\$1,759,470	\$1,759,470	\$1,670,609	\$1,638,181	(121,289)
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	26	26	26	26	26	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	26	26	26	26	26	0

SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded from Statutory Dedications generated from inspection and supervision fees paid by public utilities. "Funds received in the form of supplemental fees are provided in R.S. 45:1177(D) for the Public Service Commission shall be deposited into the state treasury and shall be used solely to fund the activities of the Economics and Rate Analysis Division and the Hearings Examiners Division." (Per R.S. 39.32 B(8), see table below for a listing of expenditures out of each Statutory Dedicated Fund.)

	ACTUAL	ACT 12	EXISTING	CONTINUATION	RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	OVER/(UNDER)
						EXISTING
Supplemental Fee Fund	\$619,266	\$776,328	\$776,328	\$746,982	\$699,962	(\$76,366)
Utility and Carrier Inspection and Supervision Fund	\$776,815	\$819,168	\$983,142	\$923,627	\$938,219	(\$44,923)

MAJOR FINANCIAL CHANGES

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$0	\$1,759,470	26	ACT 12 FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002
			BA-7 TRANSACTIONS:
\$0	\$0	0	BA-7 adjustment for a Means of Finance Substitution - increase Statutory Dedications-Utility and Carrier Inspection and Supervision Fund and decrease Fees and Self-generated Revenues by \$163,974.
\$0	\$1,759,470	26	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET - December 20, 2001
\$0	\$9,823	0	Annualization of FY 2001-2002 Classified State Employees Merit Increase
\$0	\$22,247	0	Classified State Employees Merit Increases for FY 2002-2003
\$0	\$65,445	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	(\$45,300)	0	Non-Recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	(\$126,694)	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	(\$46,810)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$1,638,181	26	TOTAL RECOMMENDED
\$0	\$0	0	LESS GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
\$0	\$1,638,181	26	BASE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$0	\$0	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE
\$0	\$1,638,181	26	GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This program does not have funding recommended for Professional Services for Fiscal Year 2002-2003.

OTHER CHARGES

\$104,898 Implementation of an electronic imaging system

\$104,898 SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

Interagency Transfers:

\$10,750 Office of Telecommunications Management Fees

\$10,750 SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

\$115,648 TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS

\$13,500	Auditing office furniture, replacement of worn out furniture
\$34,500	Replacement of various data processing equipment
\$11,200	Replacement of various library reference and other office equipment for Administrative Hearing, Economics and Rates, and Utilities
\$6,245	New office and data processing equipment
\$65,445	TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS